Revising Buffer Stocking Norms

*620. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to raise the minimum buffer stocking norms for food grains for the rest of the Tenth Plan period to provide for various welfare schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Governemnt have constituted a committee to suggest the need for revising the buffer stocking norms;

(d) if so, whether the said technical committee had made any recommendations in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Government has decided to revise the minimum buffer norms for stocking of foodgrains in the Central Pool with effect from 1st April, 2005 for the 10th Plan period as follows:

(Figs. In lakh tonnes)

	9h Five Year Plan			10th Five Year Plan		
	Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1st April	118	40	158	122	40	162
1st July	100	143	243	98	171	269
1st October	65	116	181	52	110	162
1st January	84	84	168	118	82	200

Besides Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), various important Welfare Schemes for which provision has been made in the revised buffer norms mentioned above are:

(i) Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY)

(ii) Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (Special Component)

(iii) Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDM)

(iv) National Food For Work Programme (NFFWP)

(c) to (e) The Government had constituted Fifth Technical Group on 19.3.2001 to recommend buffer norms for stocking of food grains for the 10th Plan period and its recommendations were considered at the time of taking decision at (a) above.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Oilseeds Production Programme in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

†4641. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are promoting the production of oilseeds in the country;

(b) if so, the special aid provided to Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh under Centrally sponsored oilseeds production programme during 2004-05 and the extent of aid likely to be provided during 2005-06; and

(c) the names of pulses, the production of which is likely to increase and the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil-Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) in 14 major oilseeds producing States including Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh for increasing the production and productivity of oilseeds and pulses in the country. The assistance provided to Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh during 2004-05 and proposed allocation for the year 2005-06 under ISOPOM are given below:-

State	(Rs. in lakhs) 2004-05	(Rs. in lakhs) 2005-06
Chhattisgarh	625.00	400.00
Madhya Pradesh	2925.00	2400.00

(c) Arhar, gram, urd, moong, lentil, lathyrus etc. are the major pulse crops cultivated in the country. The production of pulses during 2003-04 and 2004-05 has been estimated at 14.94 million tonnes and 14.01 million tonnes, respectively. A growth rate of 3 per cent per annum has been envisaged in pulses production during the 10th Plan period. However, the production of pulse crops largely depends on favourable weather conditions, as these crops are mostly cultivated in rainfed areas.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.